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OUR COVER The Octopus is at it again. This time his thugs have THE SPIRIT cornered. Has his incredible luck finally run out? A tense moment captured by Will Eisner and Kea Kelly.

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SPINE

CONTENTS ISSUE NO. 10 OCTOBER 1975

- THE SPIRIT'S DEAD LETTERS
 THE SPIRIT has a lot of enemies. And some are beauties. Who is the readers' favorite?
- THE SPIRIT UNDERGROUND
 His front entrance is a turf covered trap
 door. He hangs his hat in Wildwood Cemetery!
- HEAT THE SPIRIT is wounded. He lies in an alley in the middle of a teeming city. But no one sees, No one hears him call. Why?
- QUIET The Octopus was furious. His mob had failed. THE SPIRIT lived. His second attempt was an all-out effort at murder!
- DEATH IS MY DESTINY An untraceable gun. To confound Dolan. To kill THE SPIRIT. Weapon created by Amos File!
- HELP WANTED In all the world there is no one quite like Central City's famous Commissioner Dolan. Right? Wrong!
- THE ORIGIN OF THE SPIRIT
 His name was Denny Colt, police detective.
 And he was destined to become THE SPIRIT!
- SOUND Art Bennday's nerves were on end. Every sound heralded danger. He was convinced somebody was trying to kill him.
- TIME STOP He had time now. Time to commit the perfect crime. Time to make his getaway. He had all the time in the world!
- THE OCTOPUS IS BACK THE SPIRIT faces The Octopus. Only to discover his own visage behind The Octopus' masks!
- HOBART Hobart was a hermit. His life was quiet. Uncluttered. 'Til those city men filled his quiet cave with their noisy guns!
- MEANEST MAN IN WORLD
 Splinter Weevil had no heart, He murdered.
 Stole, Destroyed. Then he faced THE SPIRIT!

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THE SPIRES DEAD LETTERS

Theme issues! I don't like them! First you gave us the all-Ebony issue of THE SPIRIT. I am completely bord with the brohaha about Ebony, and this issue added infinitely to my boredom.

The female villain issue was almost as deadly. Like every-body else, I guess, I am wild about Will Eisner's women. But a magazine full of them gets to be too much.

I want more variety in my comics, And theme issues just don't provide it.

> BRIAN SMITH Peoria, III.

Three cheers for Mr. Carrion and his pet buzzard, Julia. They've finally arrived on the pages of the Warren SPIRIT in issue #9. Let's see more of this delightful old villain.

JOAN WEXLER Boston, Mass.

"Will Eisner's visual antics delight me!"

THE SPIRIT #9 looks like one of the best issues yet.

The cover was fantastic. After you stopped using the blurbs with issue #6, the covers have been getting better and better.

"Two Lives" is, in my opinion, the best story Will Eisner has ever done. His art and John Laney's tones worked hand in hand. Even the lettering was notable!

Carboy T. Gretch got the short end of the stick both times around. But Cranfranz Qwayle was the empathetic character, the one I really identified with. He managed to swap his terrible life and wife for a leisurely sojurn in solitary confinement... Carboy T. Gretch's option, had he only thought to take advantage of it.

I can well understand the volume of mail you get praising Eisner. "Two Lives" Joins "Black Alley" and "Life Below" as my all-time favorite stories.

I've been saving the best for last. On the back cover preview, who do I see running toward me but Detective Denny Colt? And below him, Dr. Cobra! Could it be? Are you actually going to present THE SPIRIT's origin?

BILL PARKS II Norfolk, Va.

Just turn to page 35 of this issue, Bill. That where the full-color origin of THE SPIRIT begins.

You guy's blew it! It looks to me like you got your captions switched on the letters page of THE SPIRIT #9. It was a little confusing!

MAX FOX Baltimore, Md.

The most fantastic story in SPIRIT #8, in fact one of my favorite SPIRIT stories ever, is the **P'Gell** tale, "Assignment: Paris."

What a plot! What characterization! What a woman!

You couldn't have chosen a better story to color. And it has the best color ever to appear in a SPIRIT tale, with the possible exception of "THE Christmas SPIRIT," which appeared in EERIE last year.

Michele Brand really knows what she's doing when it comes to making places and characters come alive through the use of color. I've never been to Paris but I'm convinced that it would have a soft pastel aura, just like the city scapes depicted in this color story.

The story itself was an incredible success. P'Gell is always fabulous. She is my favorite of all Will Eisner's female villains.

She managed THE SPIRIT adroitly, allowing him to do the heavy work, like hauling Don Carlos to justice. But he never fooled her for a second. She fooled him. Trying to outsmart P'Gell is like trying to romp through quicksand. An attempt at either is doomed at the outset.

There is something so smugly self-assured about P'Gell. This shouldn't be an endearing trait, since smug people are generally awful. But in Eisner's character it's simply delightful.

Maybe it's P'Gell's beauty that makes her so realistic, so self-assured. Maybe it's because she's gained her assurance the hard way, through years of knocking about. She knows she can handle anything because she's been pitted against almost everything, and has somehow managed to survive. And prosper.

And, through all of this, she has managed to maintain her glamour and sense of humor throughout a number of harrowing adventures that would have turned anyone with less spunk and, let's face it, less self-centeredness, into an embittered, scowling, hardened criminal.

As it is, P'Gell is one of the softest, most beguiling, most competent hardened criminals I know. I think she's wonderful. I think I'm in love. Heaven help me!

LOUIS GRIFTY New Orleans, La. Humor. Pathos. Violence. Excitement. Adventure. That's what THE SPIRIT #8, the all female foes issue was all about.

Beautiful women abounded. Sand Seref. Thorne Strand. Long Jane Silver, Miss Cosmek. Whisp O' Smoke. And my two personal favorites, Silk Satin and P'Gell.

The mood change was dramatic from one fantastic story to the next.

There was pathos as well as excitement in the two Sand Seref stories, where THE SPIRIT meets his first love gone astray. The two Thorne Strand tales were a bit more humorous. And "Assignment: Paris," the color P'Gell story was a riot. Satin was sheer drama, a really gripping tale of love, loyalty and death. "A Pot Of Gold" was zany... an unbelievable little fantasy that just might have been true. "The Visitor" was exciting with touches of incidental

What a great book, it's the best issue of THE SPIRIT you've published in a long time!

SCOTT RICE Houston, Texas

The Sand Seref stories in THE SPIRIT #8 were just what I had been waiting for. More of that excellent SPIRIT drama

There is appeal in the humorous situations that THE SPIRIT and his confederates are often involved in. But I prefer the drama of the more serious SPIRIT tales.

serious SPIRIT tales.
"Sand Seref" and "Bring in Sand Seref" were two of these. Pathos. Tension. The absolute believability of Will Eisner's characters, all made these two stories absolutely fantastic. They were moody, intense... beautifully set up for maximum effect. And Eisner's graphic genius was seldom more effective.

The stories were classics of tension and movement ... something difficult to accomplish in a comic media where you are using one static panel after another. Eisner did it!

He opened brilliantly with

He opened brilliantly with the calm, ordinary reality of passing time. Sammy and Commissioner Dolan playing checkers to take their minds off the ugly reality of a missing police officer. And then there is a ringing. Suddenly the air is electric as everyone darts for the phone.

Touches like that give THE SPIRIT drama and have earned **Eisner** his deserved reputation as a storyteller beyond

MICHAEL ALEXANDER Baltimore, Md.



"Assignment:Paris"...riot!"

James Warren has earned my gratitude. He has brought me that fantastic comic...
THE SPIRIT.

Will Eisner is obviously a brilliant artist/writer. And Warren is equally brilliant. And He's a publisher who knows a good thing when he sees it.

MAX TILMAN Tuscaloosa, Ala.

What a gorgeous bevy of

eye pleasing pulchritude! But Will Eisner's female villains, have something going for them besides their admitted beauty. They have a ferocious kitten-with a-whip mentality that I find terrifically appealing.

They might be crooks... but that doesn't stop a guy from yearning!

Give me more! More! More!

AL AUTRY Queens, N.Y.

Last year I was pushed into comics collecting by a friend who already had an extensive collection. He suggested that start with THE SPIRIT #1. I did.

My enthusiasm for THE SPIRIT was unbelievable. Is-sue after issue proved to be excellent art and powerful stories in a beautifully designed magazine.

Until issue #6. With that magazine THE SPIRIT seemed to fall apart. Not only was the price raised, but the art and stories fell into a slump. Will Eisner's is the best art anywhere, but it seems that, beginning with that book, the stories selected from the old strips were some of the worst Eisner had done. THE SPIRIT #7 was equally as bad. You dug yourselves even deeper into the hole of low quality. Issue #8 was a bit better. Eisner draws women beautifully, and it was worth the price of the magazine just to open it and look at the drawings of THE SPIRIT's beauti-

ful but deadly female foes.

Now, THE SPIRIT #9 is here. "The Candidate" was excellent... Eisner at his best! The story telling was

particularly great!
"The Coin" would have rated with the top three Eisner stories ever, if not for the "Stop The Plot" garbage. "Stop The Plot" garbage. When Eisner is serious, Eisner is beautiful. I will be both a SPIRIT and an Eisner fan forever, I am glad to see the magazine return to its previous quality with this issue. My only request is that you make THE SPIRIT monthly!

> **DAN NEARING** Boulder, Colo.

Positively beyond praise! Every story that Will Eisner has ever written featuring Silk Satin has been fantastic!

The Satin story in SPIRIT #8 was no exception. It was gripping, certainly. Exciting, of course. But what made it really special was Eisner's serious approach to the per-sonalities of Satin, THE SPIR-IT, little Hildie and even that snake Kurt Van Breck.

The action was not nearly as important as the interaction of characters. Although who could complain about the inclusion of a murder, a rob-bery, a hurricane and a rescue from a crumbling cliff.

Drama and action just naturally seem to surround Satin. And this particular Satin story featured Eisner at his

GERDA SEED Providence, R.I.

The end of "The Visitor" in THE SPIRIT #9 left me with that unsatisfactory, "something is missing" feeling.

On the sixth page of the story, after the beautiful Martian intelligence officer has blown her laboratory to smitherines, Dolan and a disheveled SPIRIT are standing out-side her hospital room. Through the cracked door, they can hear her as she repeats, over and over again, "I'm an agent from Mars... I'm an agent from Mars.

Dolan, of course, considers her completely mad, and with typical one-track-professional thinking, states that it is one way to beat a murder rap." SPIRIT answers that she could be telling the truth. Dolan replies that to prove the veracity of the girl's state-ments, THE SPIRIT would have to find the other agent whose sanity couldn't be questioned. So THE SPIRIT stalks off, planning to dig up the other Martian.

The last page of the story shows the other agent heading off into the cosmos for parts unknown. Presumably, he also has been recalled to Mars.

But what about THE SPIR-IT's quest for him? Surely there must have been more to it than that!

If there are, in fact, further episodes to this story, I wish you would print them in the near future.

> KARL SAILOR Des Moines, Iowa

Sorry, Karl. THE SPIRIT never again encountered that agent from Mars. Like many Eisner stories, it was a oneshot feature with no second part.



his most beautiful and deadly foes. A predicament many men would envy. Just take a look at these villainesses!

The first Thorne Strand story in THE SPIRIT #8 was terrific. A fine example Will Eisner's visual antics that never cease to amaze and delight

"A Slow Ship to Shanghai," the second Thorne Strand tale, was not nearly as successful, however. The only thing accomplished in this second Thorne story, was a reaffirmation of her rottenness.

I guess I just don't find Thorne very sympathetic. She's as ruthless as most of THE SPIRIT's female foes, but lacks the humor of P'Gell and the competence of Silk Satin.

> **MACY SOUTH** Jacksonville, Fla.

THE SPIRIT #9 was another beauty of an issue. A real collector's item.

The best story in the book, by far, was "The Space Sniper," followed by "Stop The Plot" and "Black Gold."

Will Eisner is one of comics' reatest figures. And THE SPIRIT certainly reflects that image.

There was a letter in THE SPIRIT #9 asking for an all-Octopus issue. Well, why not? I'm sure there must be enough Octopus stories in the Eisner library to fill a magazine. Or Mr. Eisner could do some new stories! That would be great!

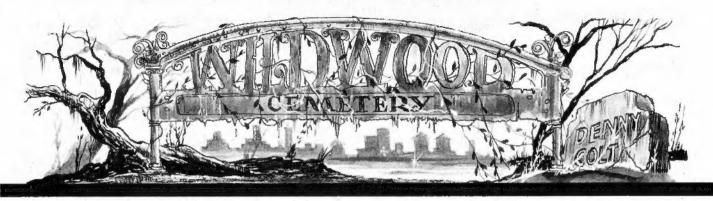
> MARK DOOLEY Columbus, Ind.

Y THE SPIRIT!

His days are filled with crime fighting. His nights with romance. But every now and then he needs a stiff dose of reality. Let him have it! Write THE SPIRIT!

THE SPIRIT'S DEAD LETTERS c/o Warren Publishing Co. 145 East 32nd Street New York, New York 10016





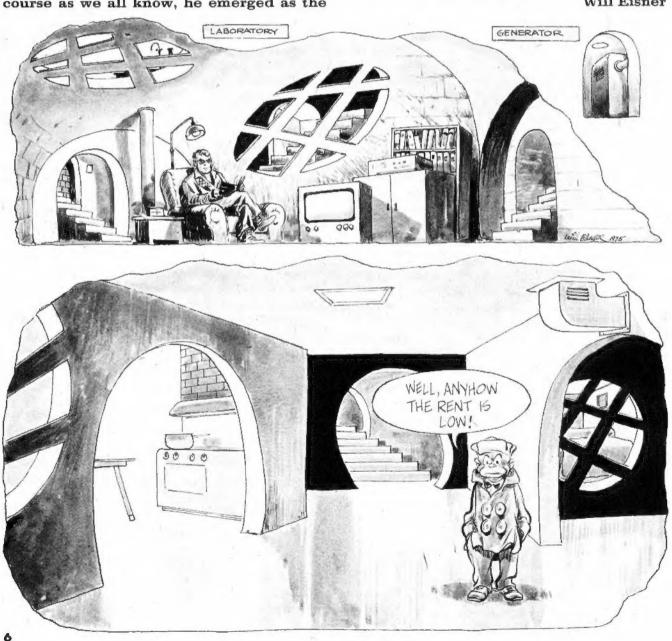
Many years ago, at the height of his career as a crimefighter, Denny Colt encountered Doctor Cobra, a mad megalomaniac. Cobra was on the threshold of accomplishing a fiendish dream—controlling Central City in one swoop by immobilizing every living soul, through the water supply.

In trying to stop it, Denny Colt fell into the fluid and himself became suspended. Believed dead, he was buried—and of course as we all know, he emerged as the fluid wore off to become The Spirit.

As someone who was "legally" dead, The Spirit had to find a place to work from. What better than Wildwood Cemetery? So, with the secret aid of Commissioner Dolan, he built himself a comfortable underground home from which he fights crime.

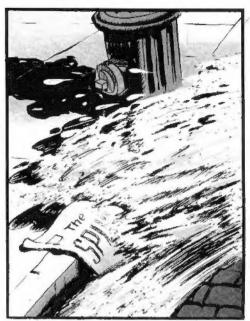
I've asked Ebony to let you have a peek!

Will Eisner

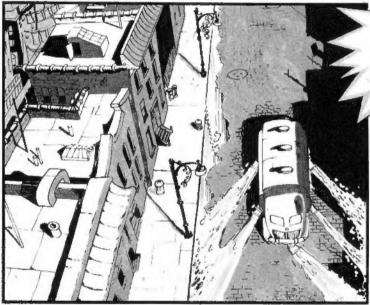


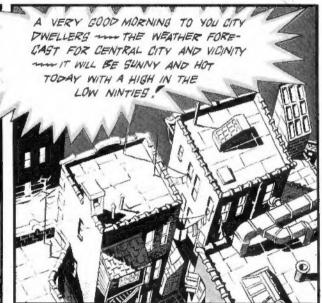










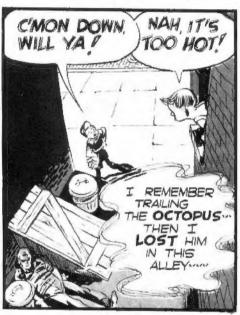




























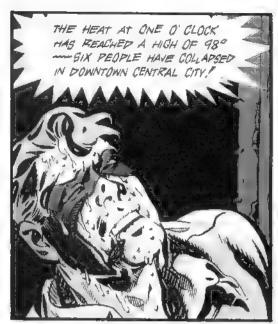














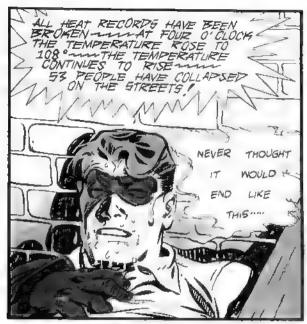


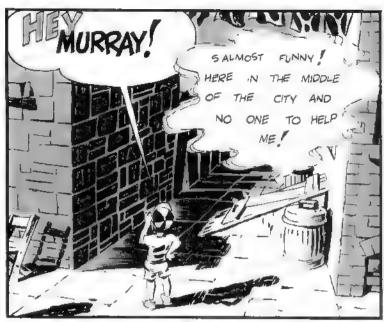








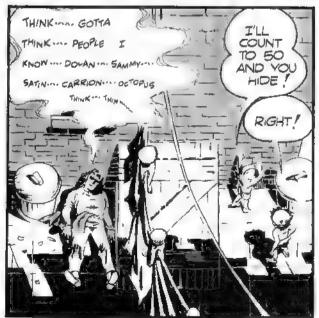


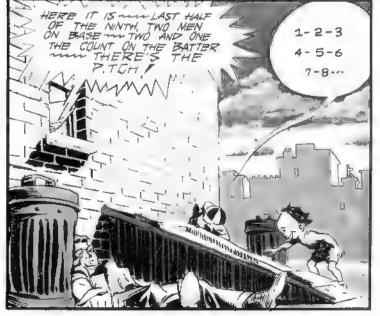










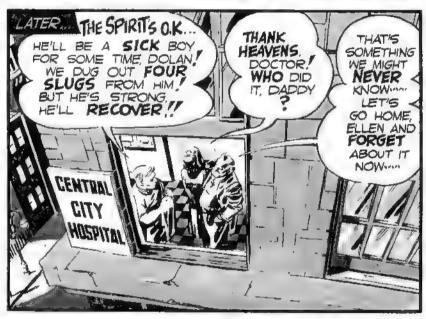






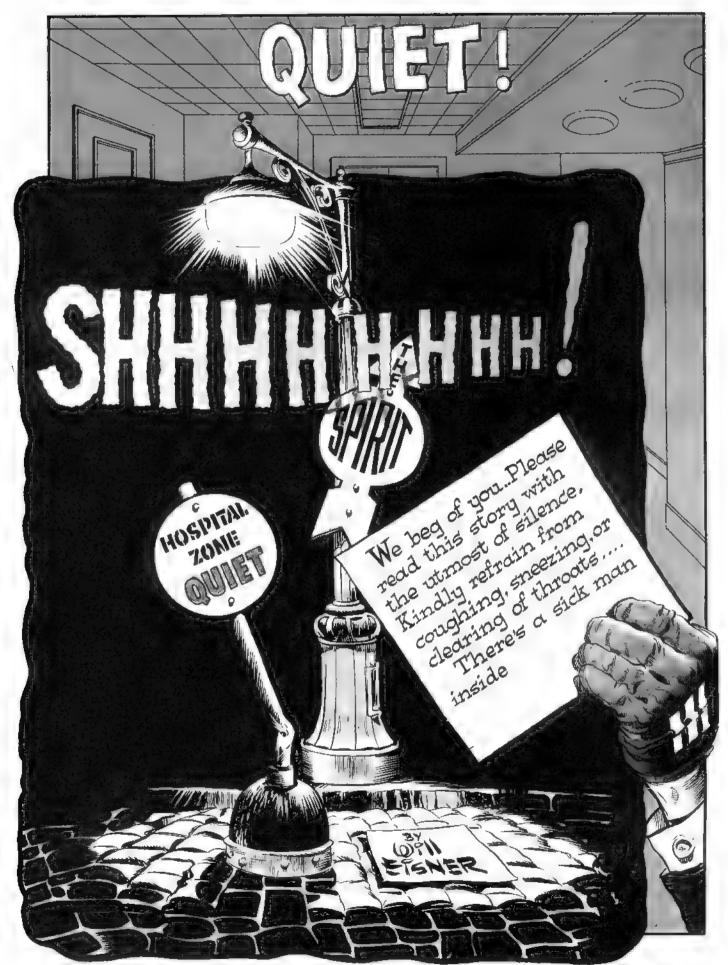










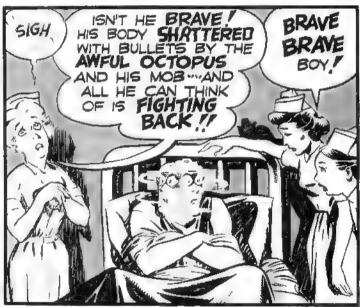


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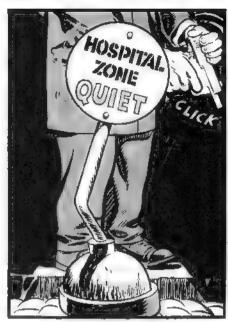




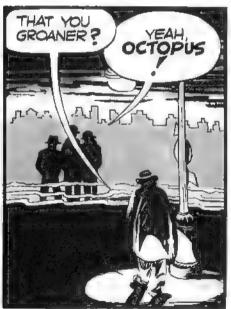














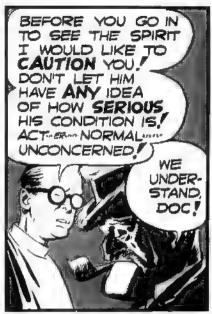






























































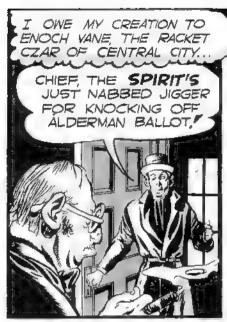










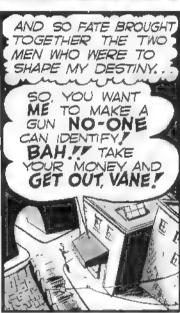


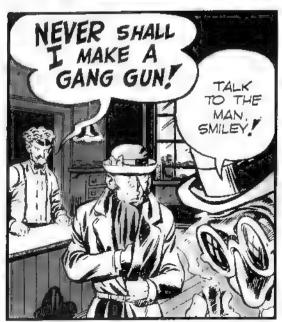














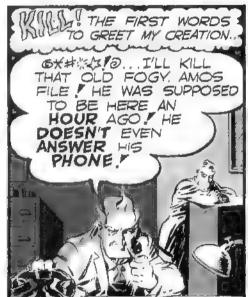














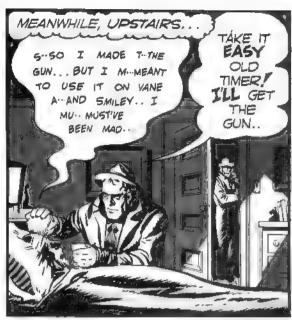














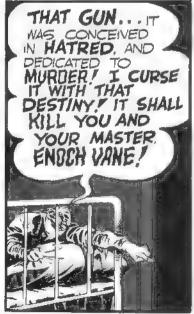






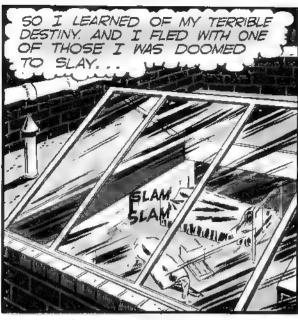






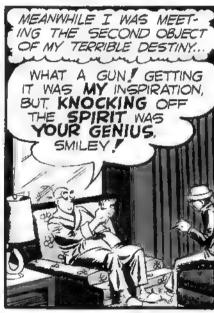
































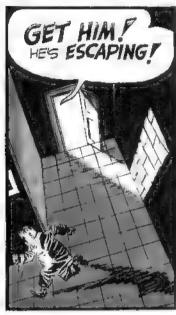










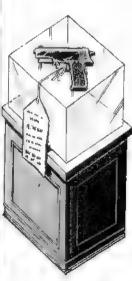




















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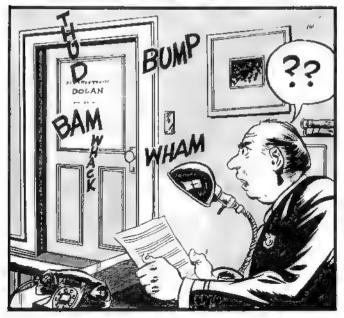










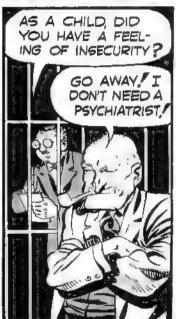




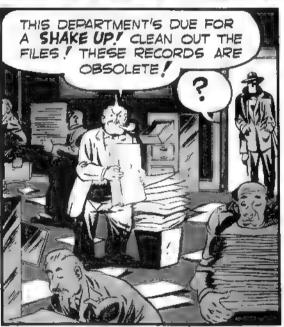






























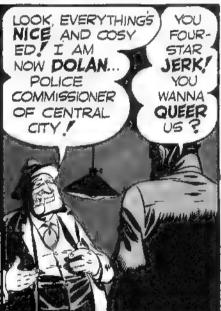








































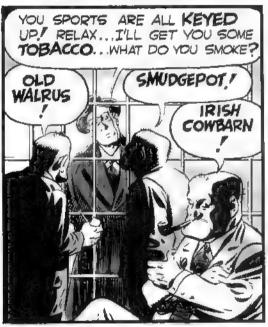










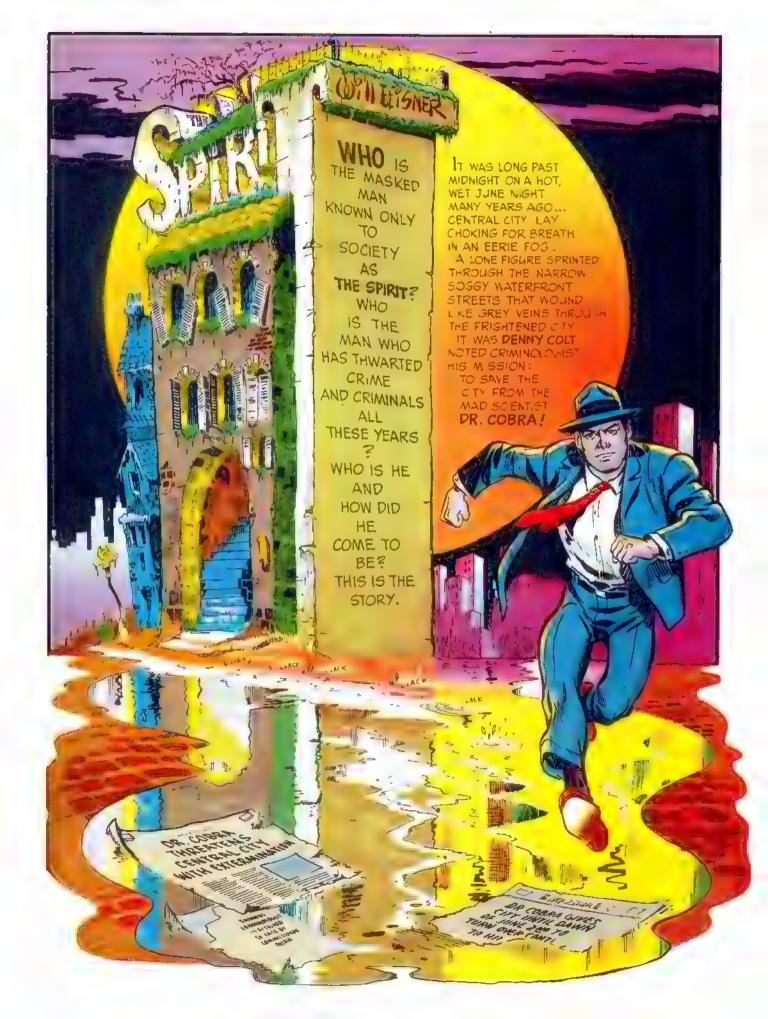


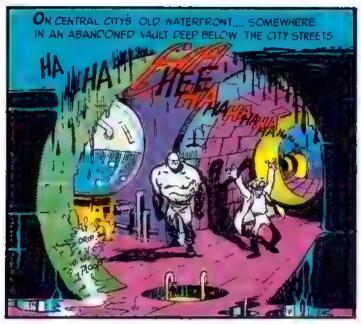
















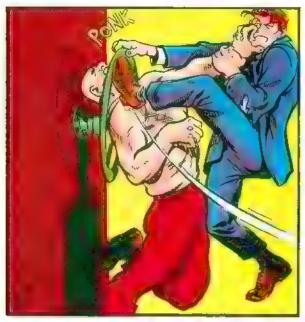
























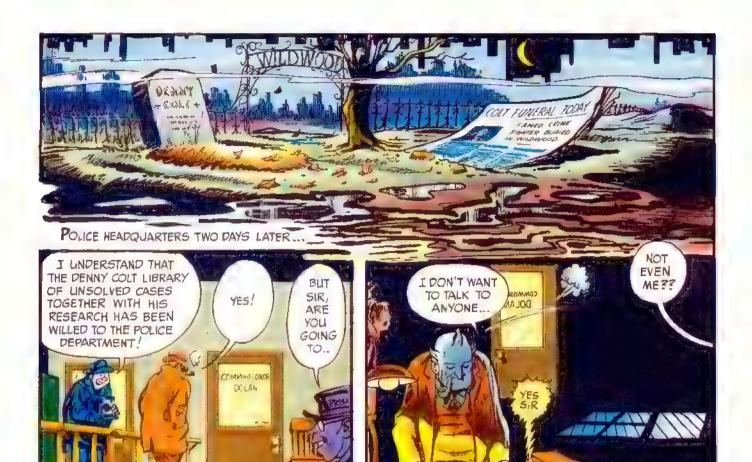




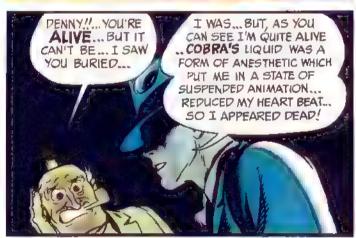


























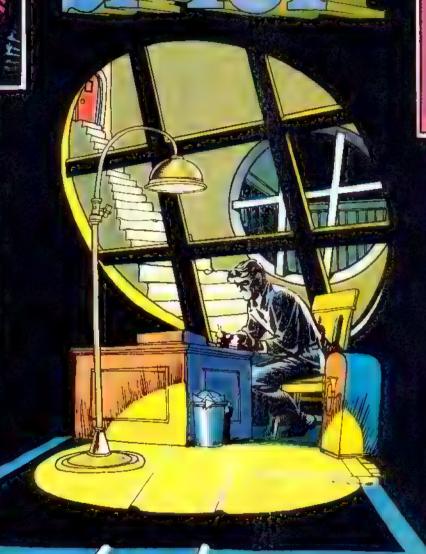












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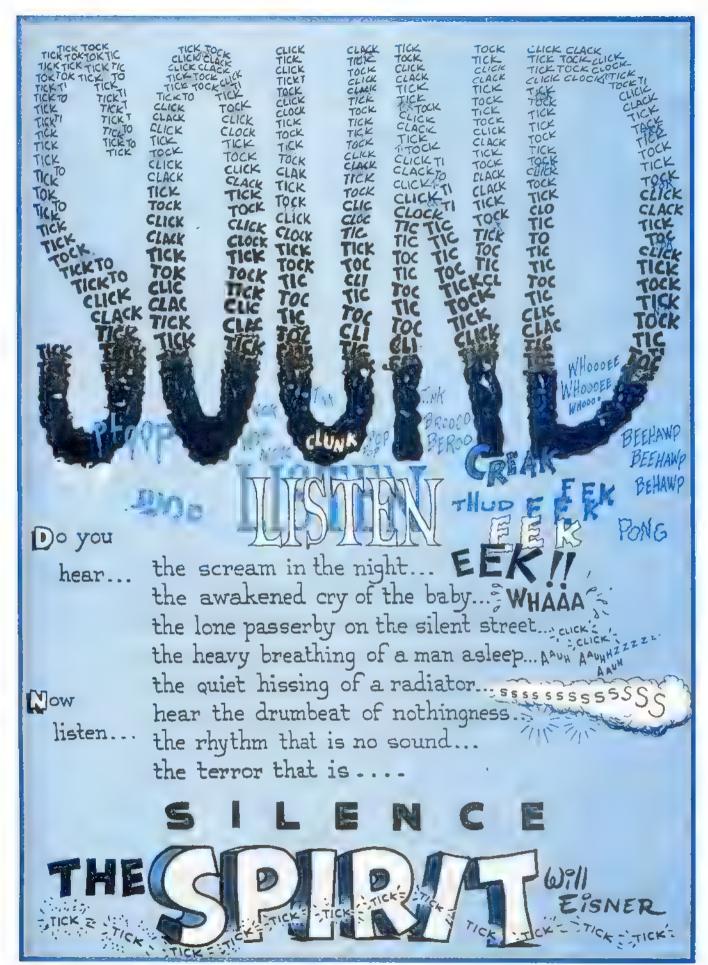


























BUT WILL .. I'M

SURE YOUR WIFE WON'T



















































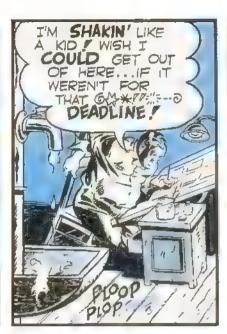














































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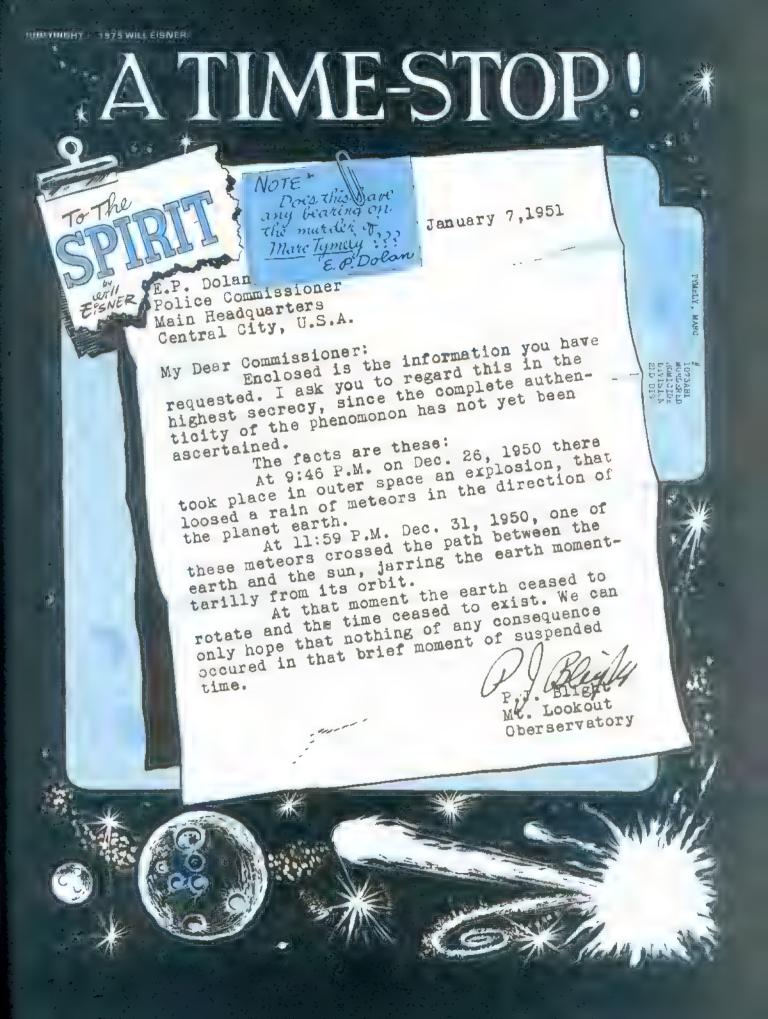
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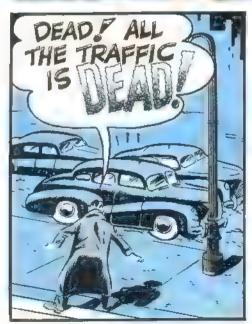




























































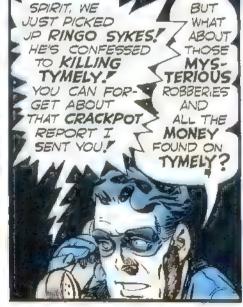














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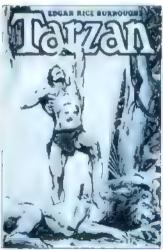
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BENEATH THE CITY SIDEWALKS, FAR PEDESTRIANS THROBS THE THE ED THE SUBWAY.

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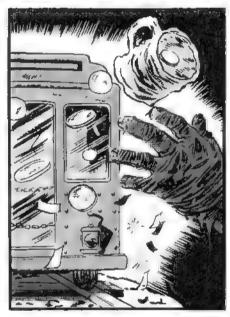


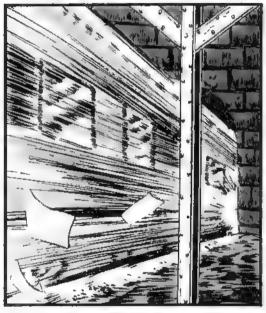




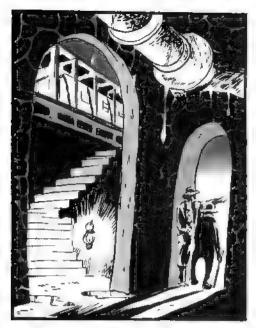


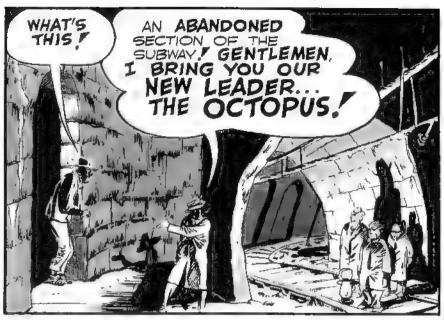


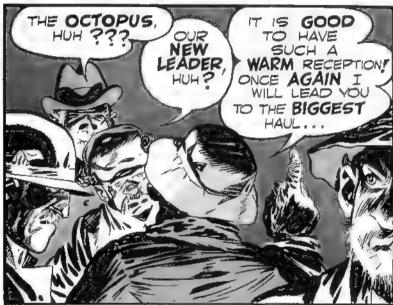




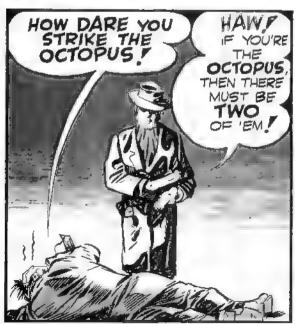




















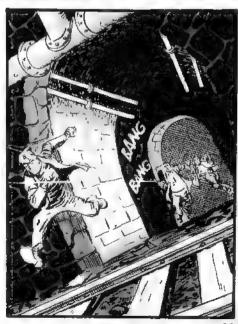












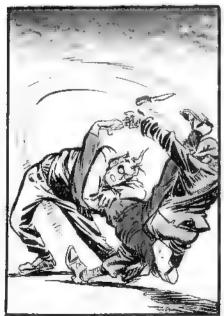


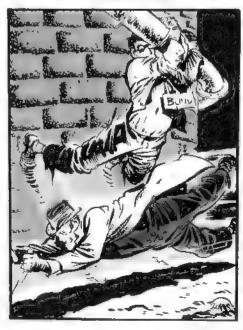


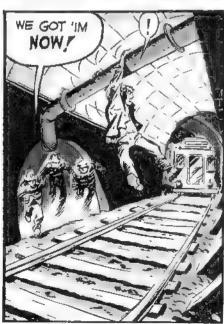












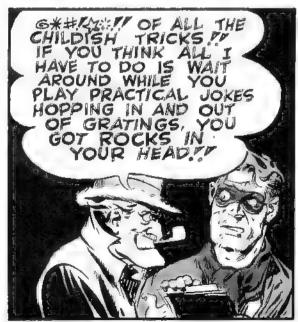


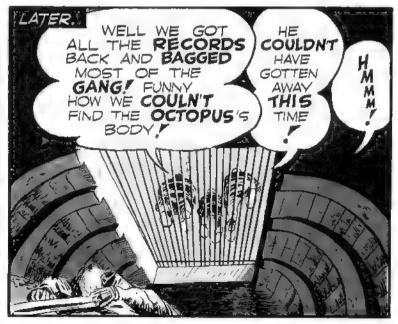














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SPIRIT BAG #1 June to August 1940. The eerie prigin of that graveyard gumshoe THE SPIRIT He meets mugs, vamps, a Nazi robot, & The Killer Clown, and downs 'em all with his knucks' Bonus each story has a special note by Will Eisner reminiscing on the strip's creation. #2112 SPIRIT BAG #1/\$4 25

SPIRIT BAG #2 - August to October 1940. The 2-fisted SPIRIT slaps the underworld silly, zooms in his flying car, clobbers Dr. Cobra. The Mastermind, and Orang, the Human Ape, as well as other flends. Meanwhile, Ebony learns to see through waits, which is to his evertasting chagnint #2157 SPIRIT BAG #2/54.25

SPIRIT BAG #3 — October to December 1940, THE SPIRIT joins the US expionage service, but still keeps lighting such baddies as The Black Queen and Stim Pickins and this gang. But keep your eyes on the tale of enemy sprest Plus. Will Eisner talks about the birth of this classic comic strip. #2180 SPIRIT BAG #3/84.25

SPIRIT BAG #4—January to March 1941. War flares and THE SPIRIT saws the US from a squadron of Nazi robot planes and organizes a Fifth Column Radio Espienage Nebwork. Still, he finds time in his schedule to save New York from the hands of a saboteur. Fen great SPIRIT tales in all #21058 SPIRIT BAG #4,54,25



LL COLOR! LARGE 2' x 3'

Here's the perfect addition to any wall! A full color poster of the World's Greatest Su-per-Hero. Drawn by The Spir-it's creator, the great Will Eisner, this vibrant pin-up is a big 2 feet by 3 feet. Poster has a matte finish, is printed on heavy, high quality paper, and is a must for fans! #2949/ \$2.00.



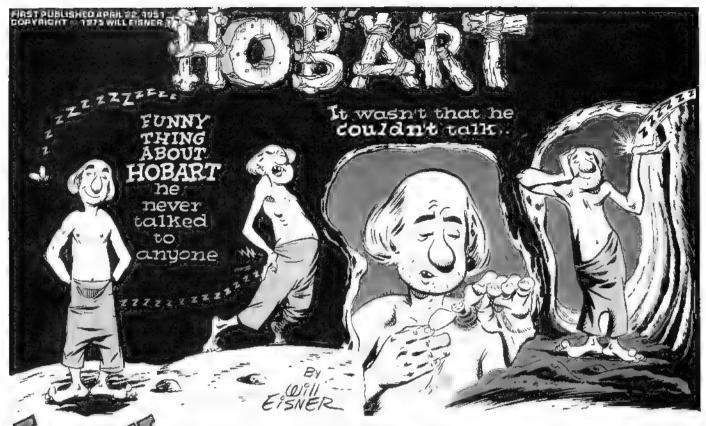
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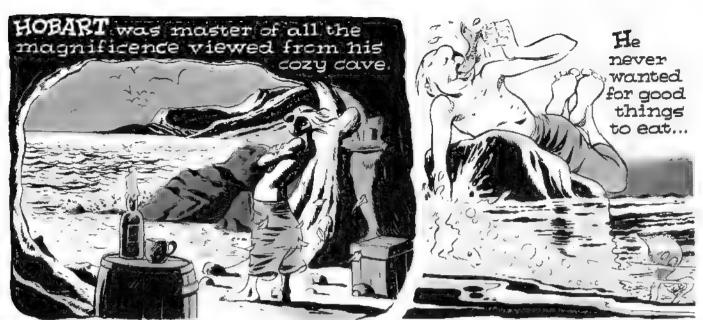
Attention, Collectors! On sale for a limited time only! The Warren publishing tote bags, distributed at the 1973 and 1974 New York Comic Art Conventions! Both bags are made of 14*x17 quality, yellow heavy-weight viny! with snap grop handes. Each has the "WARREN-MAKE US YOUR 886" slegan plus drawings of the Warren characters Tite 1973 bag is printed in red, 1974 has gurple lettering and reads "New York Comic Art Convention 1974. A perfect way to transport mint condition comics. Orders for a specific bag cannot be honored since the supply of both is limited, #2689





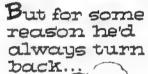
In fact, the had a lot of things on his mind....







Then he'd pack his things, put on his shoes and go forth for a taste of civilization





And gaze into the beautiful beyond



IN FACT, HOBART never entertained socially....



Except once



When civilization came to HOBART.



All nicely dressed....that is....



Except for one messy character, who wore a mask













Well it was a pretty piece of paper...
But Hobart had only one use for paper.







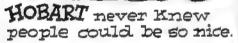










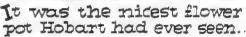














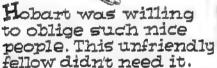






































What a silly man ...of course it's safe in there!







This is civilization? Such a racket?





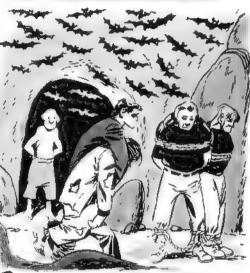












Bats don't hurt you. Anybody knows that. Some of Hobart's best friends are bats...





And settled down to the carefree life of a hermit.

Ву Will

RARE UNDERGROUND

In the early 770's Dennis Kitchen published two underground comics featuring Will Eisner's classic crime-fighting hero, THE SPIRIT/They were difficult to find. And those available rapidly disappeared. Warren Publishing has acquired a limited supply of these rare underground comics and will be selling them for only \$1.25 each while the supply lasts. Each 7"x10" black and white book is 32 pages long. Each has a full color, original cover. Each contains four reprint classics plus four pages of never-before-published art: This is an offer no SPIRIT fan can refuse. Get these fine selections from the classic SPIRIT sage. Order years today!



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By Will EISNER

nevah heerd tell 'bout Splinter Weevil and his ambition. Splinter caused some mighty big talk around these parts...

see, his ambition was the the meanest man in the world and dang it all, if he didn't nearly reach his goal....

MAN

INTHEWORL

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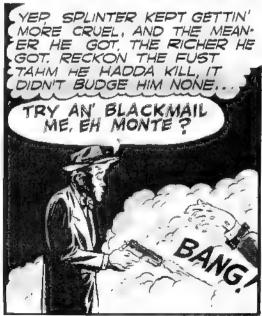


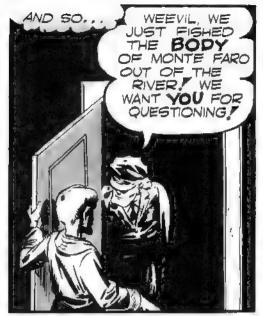








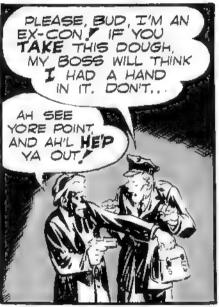






















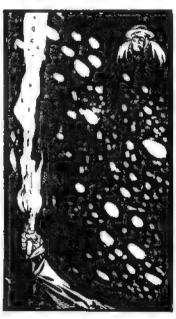


















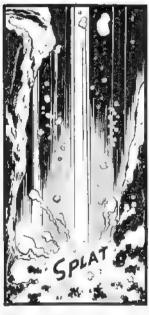




































WELL SIR THE FIRE BROUGHT THE SPIRIT AND TH' REST O' THE RESCUE PARTY, WHEN THEY GOT THERE THEY FOUND SPLINTER RIPPING HIS SHIRT INTO BANDAGES.



THE LAW FINALLY
TOOK IT'S COURSE
AND SPLINTER WAS
JAILED FER LIFE!
BUT AH HEAR TELL
HE'S A LOT
HAPPIER NOW
THAN HE EVER
WAS B'FORE!
DON'T YOU THINK
HE IS?



OB STARTR

Star Trek lives! First as a live-action science fiction adventure series, then as an exciting Saturday morning animated television show. Now it comes to you in this terrific col-lection of paperback books by major science fiction writers James Blish and Alan Dean Foster. Included also in this collection are several books by the series creators on how it was developed and produced for television, in-cluding special information on some of its best episodes. Each book is a thick 7"x4" masterpiece with a full-color cover. Some have a section of photos showing scenes from the television series you can now read about. Also included are photos of the crew, producer Gene Roddenberry, the Starship, its control panel and instruments used on the show. No Star Trek collector worth his weight in tribbles will miss even one of these great books!



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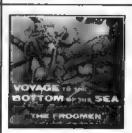
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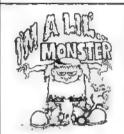
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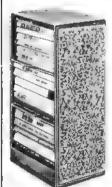
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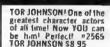
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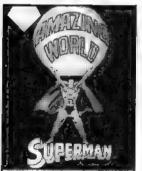
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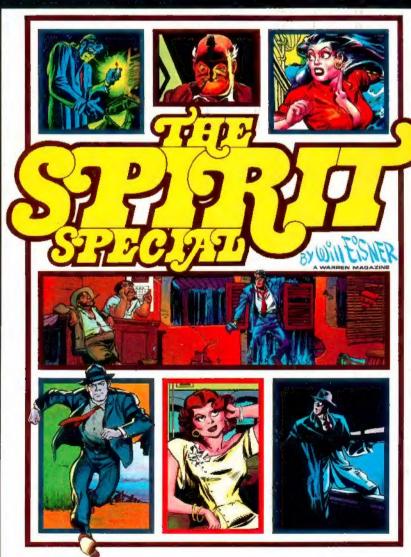
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